



MINUTES

Meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
A Public Agency

Wednesday, March 02, 2005
5:30 PM

TELEVISED (City TV Channel 18)

Santa Barbara MTD Auditorium
550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

John Britton, Chair, Brian Fahnestock, Secretary, Lee Moldaver, Director,
David Davis, Director

DIRECTOR NOT PRESENT:

Olivia Rodriguez, Vice Chair

MTD EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager, Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant to the Board and General Manager, Jerry Estrada, Assistant General Manager/Controller, David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations, Paul Tumbleson, Manager of Passenger Facilities, Jill Grisham, H.R. & Risk Administrator, Nick Di Napoli, Graphic Design, Jose Bautista, Utility, Diana Bautista, Accounting Clerk, Imelda Martin, Receptionist, Liz Hasch, Manager of Accounting, Mike Cardona, Acting Manager of Maintenance, Dave Morse, Superintendent of Operations, Gary Johns, Manager of Operations, Jim Haggerty, Quality Assurance Manager, Tom Sheldon, IT Network Administrator, John Andoh, Transit Planning Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT:

Logan Green, MTD Board Member City of Santa Barbara Appointee (effective 3/7/05), Dan Secord M.D., Finance Committee Chair City of Santa Barbara, Browning Allen, Transportation Manager City of Santa Barbara, Grant House, President Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST), Sandy and Jill Tumbleson, Carmen Bautista, Steve Musick

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Britton called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and reminded the Board members and the public that this would be a televised meeting.

2. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Britton noted that all members were present, with the exception of Director Rodriguez who would not be present at tonight's meeting.

3. REPORT REGARDING POSTING OF AGENDA

The General Manager reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters, on the MTD website and mailed to the media of general circulation.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

4. PROCLAMATION- RETIRING BOARD MEMBER, DIRECTOR LEE MOLDAVER

The Board honored retiring Board member, Lee Moldaver for his 20 (combined) years of service to MTD and the community. The General Manager then invited the public to attend an upcoming BBQ that would be held in Director Moldaver's honor on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, on MTD's patio at noon. Chair Britton then presented Director Moldaver with a certificate of Congressional Recognition, signed by Congresswoman Lois Capps for "Outstanding and Invaluable Service to the Community". Director Moldaver thanked the Board, the General Manager, MTD employees and the community for making MTD such a great organization. Director Moldaver closed by saying that he has enjoyed watching Ms. Fisher over the past years, from her start as a bus driver to the position of MTD's General Manager.

5. INTRODUCTION/WELCOME- LOGAN GREEN, BOARD MEMBER APPOINTEE

The Board welcomed the City of Santa Barbara's recently appointed (effective 3/7/05) MTD Board member, Logan Green. Mr. Green addressed the Board and stated as a bus rider and bicyclist that he looks forward to bringing his perspective to the Board.

6. MILPAS STREET BUS STOP/SHELTER

David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations updated the Board on plaques of recognition and thanks that will be placed at the bus shelter located at Milpas Street (in front of Trader Joe's). Mr. Damiano added that MTD had received contributions for this much needed shelter from COAST (in the form of a "Community Development Block" grant), the City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Beautiful and a private donation by Barry and Martha Siegel.

7. EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

The Board honored MTD employees, Diana Bautista, Accounting Clerk (MTD spotlight employee for Oct-Dec 2004) and Paul Tumbleson, Manager of Passenger Facilities (MTD spotlight employee for Jan-Mar 2005) for their outstanding performance. Ms. Bautista's parents, Jose and Carmen Bautista were both present and it was noted that Mr. Bautista has been an MTD employee in the maintenance department for almost 24 years. Mr. Tumbleson's wife Jill and his mother Sandy accompanied him.

Mike Cardona, Acting Manager of Maintenance was honored for his "Local Hero" award that was given to him by the *Santa Barbara Independent*. Mr. Cardona was chosen for his service and dedication to the community by providing safe buses for its passengers and was featured in the November 25-December 2, 2004, issue of the *Santa Barbara Independent*. The General Manager announced that this article had since been framed and will hang proudly at MTD headquarters.

At this time the Board invited Mr. Bautista forward to join Mr. Cardona, where he, Mr. Cardona and other members of the maintenance department, who were not present (Robert Le Count, Mechanic, Devrin Manker, Mechanic, Tim Cardona, Mechanic, Alan Witcher, Trainer and Juan Perez, Parts Clerk) were thanked for their extraordinary effort's to prepare the retired, surplus buses for use by South Coast Area Transit (SCAT). These buses were loaned to SCAT after their Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) line was damaged by a mudslide, which left them without fuel for their fleet. Mr. Estrada was also thanked, for his assistance with the administration end of this effort.

THIS CONCLUDED THE CEREMONIAL ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

8. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Director Davis moved to waive the reading of and approve the minutes for the Board meeting of February 15, 2005. Director Moldaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. CASH REPORT

Director Moldaver moved to approve the cash report from February 8, 2005, through February 21, 2005. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion. Director Davis asked if the Finance Committee had reviewed this cash report and Chair Britton stated that they had. The motion passed unanimously.

THIS CONCLUDED THE CONSENT CALENDAR

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Grant House, President Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST) thanked MTD's Board and employees for their outreach and support to the community during the recent storms, which caused freeway/road closures. Mr. House stated that he was also impressed by MTD's recent emergency assistance to SCAT.

Steve Musick spoke regarding the following agenda items #'s: 13, 14, and 15. During his comments to item #15, Mr. Musick stated that he had some information for the Property Committee about Calle Real. The General Manager then reported to the Board that Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant to the Board and the General had tried to arrange a meeting with Mr. Musick after his last report regarding Calle Real, but had not heard back from him. Director Moldaver responded to Mr. Musick's comments by stating that MTD Board members had not previously responded to Mr. Musick's concerns regarding Calle Real due to the fact that this topic has been a closed session item. Mr. Moldaver reassured Mr. Musick that all laws are being followed and public safeguards are in place. A meeting of the Property Committee will be scheduled to discuss these concerns with Mr. Musick.

11. FISCAL YEAR 04-05 BUDGET REVISIONS

Jerry Estrada, Assistant General Manager/Controller reviewed the budget revisions for fiscal year 2004-2005 with the Board and requested that the Board authorize staff's recommended revisions and adjustments. Director Moldaver moved to adopt the revised 2004-2005 budget revisions. Director Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 05-06 BUDGET

The General Manager and Mr. Estrada reviewed the draft budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 with the Board. The General Manager explained that this draft is being presented to the Board early, to seek their input and guidance before the final budget is presented. The Board complimented Mr. Estrada on a user-friendly draft budget and for bringing it to them early.

INTERMISSION

At 7:02 PM the Board took an intermission.

RETURN FROM INTERMISSION

At 7:07 PM the Board returned from intermission.

13. BROOKS INSTITUTE OF PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENT PASS PROGRAM

Mr. Estrada presented the Board a proposed student pass program with Brooks Institute of Photography. Director Davis moved to authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Brooks Institute to provide their students with a pass program that is financially equivalent to and logistically similar to the SBCC, UCSB or My Ride pass programs. Director Moldaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. BUS AND RAILWAY DISCUSSION (CONTINUED FROM 2-15-05 BOD MEETING)

The Board engaged in a discussion related to transportation solutions including rail and busways. Director Fahnestock enlightened the Board with some of his ideas and reported that he has been researching ideas for possible solutions to the traffic congestion along the 101 freeways between the Ventura and Santa Barbara.

15. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

The General Manager reviewed the March 1, 2005, launch of the Valley Express service with the Board. The General Manager thanked Chair Britton, Director Moldaver and Logan Green for joining in on the inaugural trip. The General Manager added that 68 passengers were carried the first day and 70 were reported for today. Mr. Damiano then presented a slide show of pictures from the launch. Valley Express branded commuter mugs and coffee were handed out at the Solvang and Buellton stops on this day. Mr. Damiano also reviewed the Valley Express marketing plan with the Board and stated that outreach/promotion continues via the media and radio. Mr. Damiano pointed out that the Valley Express brand was created in large part by Nick Di Napoli, Graphic Designer for MTD. This brand continues to be featured throughout the Valley Express marketing campaign. The General Manager also complimented the entire marketing department (Mr. Di Napoli, Sarah Glover, Marketing Coordinator, Mr. Damiano and in absentia, Lynnette Coverly, former Manager of Marketing) for this successful ad campaign.

The Board discussed the status of Calle Real's soil remediation during public comment and the General Manager added that the house on Calle Real continues to be a problem; due to break-ins. Staff recommendations regarding possible demolition of the house will be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

The General Manager reported that the application deadline for the HR & Risk Manager position was yesterday (March 1, 2005) and that she is pleased to report that many resumes were received. The General Manager added that some interviewing has begun and that she hopes to fill this position by the end of March.

Mr. Estrada reported that the UCSB Student & Faculty Pass Program, has been delayed, but not stopped due to some changes to the draft contract. The passes that will be used have been encoded and are being tested in MTD's fareboxes, with no problems reported.

The General Manager requested that the Facilities Committee meet to discuss the possibility of Easy Lift sharing space at MTD.

Mr. Estrada updated the Board on the sale & disposal of MTD's retired buses (1988-89 Villager and 1984 Gillig buses). Mr. Estrada explained that a majority of these buses had recently been placed up for auction. Some have been sold and the rest will be scrapped. Mr. Estrada added that some of these are the buses that have been loaned to (SCAT) with the approval of the buyers.

The General Manager updated the Board on the status of the bids received by MTD for Third Party Administrator for Workers' Compensation. The bids are being reviewed and interviews are scheduled for the top bids received.

The General Manager closed by touching on the topic of unmet transit needs. The General Manager stated that MTD reviews all requests for added or changes to service, such as the one recently received by Harley Augustino of PUEBLO. Mr. Augustino had recently forwarded MTD a letter that he had addressed to Santa Barbara Association of Governments (SBCAG), in which he reported unmet transit needs for Lines 1 & 2 and a request for later running buses.

16. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Britton and Director Fahnestock reported that the Finance Committee had met on February 28, 2005, to review the budget items on this agenda. Directors Moldaver and Fahnestock reported that the Personnel Committee had met on February 28, 2005, to discuss staff health insurance. Director Davis reported that he and the General Manager had met with Fred Lamont of the Housing Authority on February 23, 2005, to discuss Calle Real.

17. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION-CALLE REAL

The Board did not meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, conference with real property negotiators regarding the MTD Calle Real Property, APN's Book 59, Page 14, Parcels 4, 5 & 6, and Book 67, Page 23, Parcel 6, concerning price and terms of payment; agency negotiators Doug Large and Bob Andrews; other negotiation parties: Housing Authority of County of Santa Barbara, Martin Farrell Homes, and Investec Capital, Inc.

18. ADJOURNMENT

After well wishes and thank you's to Mr. Moldaver from the Board members, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.